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CONTENTS AND ABSTRACTS

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JANUARY 1990

Professional publishing in the UK: the literature of librarianship and information work, 1967-87
SHEILA RITCHIE 1-40

Book publishing for the profession expanded in the late 1960s and early 1970s. It stabilized towards the late 1970s and sales declined in the 1980s. Professional bodies dominated production during the first decade; commercial publishers, apart from Clive Bingley, did not exploit the library market until the late 1970s. For journals the main era of growth was the 1980s, new titles proliferating while subscriptions to existing journals declined. The number of titles of both books and journals increased as the print runs and sales of individual titles decreased, mirroring the pattern of the publishing industry in general.

Review article

The life of Bryan: Australian library and information services, yesterday, today and tomorrow
COLIN STEELE 41-5

In this review article an analysis of Australian library and information services past, present and future is provided in the context of three recent publications which reflect, in particular, the role and influence of Dr Harrison Bryan, former Director-General of the National Library of Australia, on Australian librarianship. Overviews are given of issues such as national collection coordination, library networking, document delivery and the role of national librarians. Such matters are universal and the Australian experience provides a valuable source for comparative librarianship, as well as an indication of the role of individuals in the achievement or non-achievement of national library goals within a political framework.

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Libraries, information and Europe
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and more initiatives in library and information services are emanating from the European Community. The Community's interest in improving its economic performance in information technology has led to proposals for computerization of library services, resulting in a draft 5-year plan for financial support. The central work of the Community is expanding and agreements are under discussion about a Community policy on books and reading. The Council of Europe, with a much wider membership than the Community, is also active in this field. In addition to general issues, the Community has initiated proposals on copyright, book prices, taxation of books and the compulsory acceptance in all member states of library and information qualifications gained in a member state. The European aspect of environmental activity not only cannot be ignored but calls for very close attention.

Employment and career surveys: some reflections on their value and relevance
BENDAN LOUGHRIIDGE 71-90

A section of surveys of job destinations, career progression and career patterns of former students of departments of library and information studies in the UK over the past 15 years is reviewed. The value and validity of such surveys is questioned. Lack of standardization in questions asked and selection of sample populations is noted. Developments revealed by surveys are summarized. A decline in the number of students entering public libraries and a shift to the teaching of public librarianship, greater job mobility between types of library and between traditional library and information posts and jobs in the 'emerging market' are noted, as is continuing concern about the relevance of training to practice and the implementation of curriculum change and communication between users and practitioners.

Disaster control planning in Nigeria
BUNMI ALEGBELEYE 91-106

The article describes a study, the primary focus of which was to investigate the availability or otherwise of disaster control plans in university libraries in Nigeria. The contextual framework is described, followed by an anatomy of library and archival disasters, with particular reference to Nigeria. The method of study took the form of a questionnaire distributed to the 26 university libraries in Nigeria, to which 20 responded. The respondents' data are analysed and a summary of the issues is given.

Review article

The disappearing borrower
PETER LABDON 107-13

Collated results of research into the methods used by general readers to select books from public library shelves are considered in the context of traditional public library attitudes to book display. It is suggested that the current decline in library borrowing may be the result of changing social trends allied to a permanent reduction in the amount of resources available to public libraries, and that it may be timely to reconsider the long-term viability of general library practice, against the option of a positive move in the direction of specific, targeted services using resources at present devoted to the satisfaction of general demand.

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The LIBSCOT file and library historiography

JOHN C CRAWFORD 131-44

Two projects and their interrelationships are discussed: the LIBSCOT file, a microcomputer held directory of library provision in Scotland in the 1890s, and the project to catalogue Scottish 'public' library printed catalogues issued by publicly accessible libraries between 1765 and 1914 (PLPC). The LIBSCOT file consists of 534 records representing all types of library at the period. Although library provision was in some respects comprehensive it was based on small administrative units and underfunding was endemic. PLPC consists of over 900 records which are being converted to machine-readable format. The historiographical implications are analysed.

The effects of new technology on information work: examples from chemical companies

ELAINE DAVIS SMITH 145-60

A study is made of a survey by interview and questionnaire of the effects of new technology on online searching in a number of chemical companies, the aim being to establish the forms of technology involved and their effects on budget, information staff and end users. Technologies currently in use and anticipated are investigated and noted; these, together with other factors which arose in the discussions and their effects, are summarized, and conclusions drawn. It was generally found that the developments in technology over the last decade or so had had some effect on budget, but respondents were often more concerned with the sociological effects of the new technologies on both information staff and end users.

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Accuracy of information provision:
the need for client-centred service
PAUL F BURTON 201-15

A summary is provided of a number of unobtrusive tests which indicate that reference services in academic and public libraries supply correct answers to inquiries 55 per cent of the time only. Library and information services (LIS) must improve their accuracy rate and need to adopt client-centred services in order to operate in a new information marketplace and to meet competition from other sources. Information technology facilitates a redistribution of resources from technical services to 'front of house' operations, but it is suggested that staff who are moved from technical services are not always the most suitable for client-centred services. There is a need for interpersonal and communication skills to be fostered by the schools of library and information studies and for focused in-house training.

Are librarians burning out?
DAVID P FISHER 216-35

A critical analysis of stress and burnout studies of librarians published over the last ten years. The researchers fall into two camps: those who want to investigate the prevalence of stress/burnout and those who merely insist that it exists. Unfortunately, the believers are more numerous than the empiricists. No conclusive evidence regarding the existence of stress and burnout amongst librarians was discovered. A brief review of the most popular stress remedies is given and, finally, tentative proposals are made as to the most appropriate direction for future research.

Duplicates and other manifestations:
new approach to the presentation of
bibliographic information
F H AYRES 236-5

This article discusses the problem of bibliographic control in the large machine-readable databases that are replacing the traditional library catalogue. The nature of duplication in these large databases is examined and a possible way in which it could be eliminated is outlined. It is suggested that the main entry should be replaced by a manifestation entry. This would enable a new approach to be made to the way in which catalogue information is presented to the user. Revised and expanded functions and objectives for the catalogue are laid down to replace those of Cutter which have been used for over a century. Modern developments in bibliographic control make this change possible.

Review articles

International librarianship
RONALD BENGE 252-

*An examination of K C Harrison's recently published *International librarianship* with particular reference to libraries in the Third World. Its value as publicity material is acknowledged and its limitations as a study of more permanent interest are stressed.*

Reporting LIS research
PIRKKO ELLIOTT 257-6

Some problems of LIS research publishing are discussed in this article, then previous surveys LIS research publishing are presented. Monograph publishing, abstracting services and journals that disseminate information about research, mainly in the UK but often with an

national coverage and circulation, are listed described and their coverage of current and completed LIS research assessed.

views

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